

# LONE WOLF

AND

# CUB

子連水狼

VOLUME 2

## THE GATELESS BARRIER

By KAZUO KOIKE  
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



子連水狼

# LONE WOLF AND CUB

子と狼

story  
KAZUO KOIKE

art  
GOSEKI KOJIMA



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**DANA LEWIS**  
lettering & retouch  
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editors  
**MIKE HANSEN and DAN HARRIS**  
assistant editor  
**TIM ERVIN**  
consulting editor  
**TOREN SMITH for STUDIO PROTEUS**  
book design  
**DARIN FABRICK**  
art director  
**MARK COX**

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THE  
GATELESS  
BARRIER

By KAZUO KOIKE  
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

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VOLUME

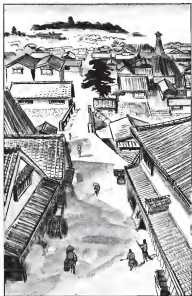
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# LONE WOLF AND CUB



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Red Cat. . . . .	9
The Coming of the Cold. . . . .	67
Tragic O-Sue. . . . .	125
The Gateless Barrier. . . . .	181
Winter Flower. . . . .	243
Glossary . . . . .	303



*the tenth*

# Red Cat

















THE CRIME THIS MAN HAS COMMITTED IS CLEAR. FACE HIS CONFESSION, AND SIGN IT WITH HIS FINGERPRINT.



WHAT IS YOUR MAN OF COURAGE? YOUR FAMILY NAME?

SHOULD BE THIS. I AM, DESPITE MY FALLEN STATE, STILL A SAMURAI. I REQUEST PERMISSION NOT TO DENY MY PLACE OF BIRTH.



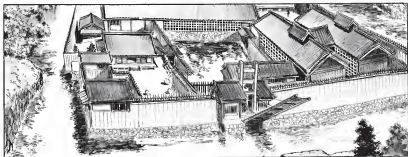
HOW? IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THIS SCRAWNY DOG OF A ROGUE STILL HAS A SPIRIT OF SAMURAI HEART LEFT IN HIM, BUT DO SO IT.

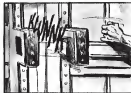


I SENTENCE YOU TO IMPRISONMENT! STAND!















IN FRONT OF THE MAN  
LINED UP BEFORE YOU  
A PATHETIC FELLOW LIKE YOU  
COULDN'T EVEN ROB RIGHT  
COULDN'T EVEN COMMIT ACRIM RIGHT  
HERE UNDER THE FINE TORCHES  
TREMABLE WITH FEAR WITH ALL YOUR AIGHT



YOU GOT GUTS,  
MY MAN. MOST OF  
YOU FOLKS SPOON SHAKE  
SO MUCH WHEN THEY  
HEAR THAT SONG  
THEY CAN BARELY  
STAND.

YOU'VE  
DREAMT IN DREAM  
BEFORE?



































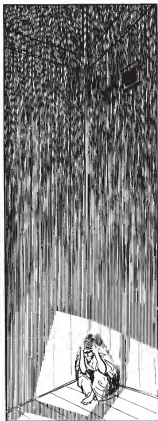














IT'S THE  
DROP FOR  
BOTH OF YOU!  
TOMORROW!



THEY'LL BE  
TESTING A  
NEW SWORD  
FOR OUR LORD  
VERY VERY SOON!



ONE OF YOU GETS TO TEST  
THE CUTTHROAT EDGE, RIGHT  
THROUGH YOUR TORSO ABOVE  
OF COURSE. THE OTHER GETS  
TO SEE HOW IT IS FOR  
STIRRING. HEE HEE HEE HEE...



DEET



MY  
NECK!

O- SAID MY  
SOMEBODY?

























THE DASTARD.  
HIS FACE WAS  
COVERED UP, BUT  
HE WAS DARK GOOD.  
ALMOST KILLED  
TEN OF THE GUYS  
AT LEAST.

I RUN LIKE CRAZY.  
SO I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.  
BUT THAT WHOLE AFFAIR  
IT WAS A SETUP FROM  
THE JAT-BO, I SWEAR.



WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?



HEY, IF THE  
PRISONERS  
DON'T COME  
BACK, IT DON'T  
MATTER WHAT HIS  
INTENTIONS  
WERE. IT'S STILL  
THE HANDEYS  
FAULT.

IF SOMEONE USED  
ME TO SET A FIRE,  
OFFERED A SLASH OF THE  
ALMS AND HID THEIR  
BODIES SOMEWHERE, SO  
IT LOOKED LIKE THEY  
SALE, THEN YOU KNOW  
WHAT HAPPENS  
NEXT.



SO ALL  
YOU NEED IS  
SOME FIRE...

YEAH,  
DAMN STRAIGHT  
BUT...



THERE  
AIN'T  
ANY...













WHAT HAPPENED  
ONCE AGAIN? WHO DID IT  
FIRST WILL SUSPECT  
SOMEONE ELSE OF  
TRYING THE SAME THING  
AGAINST HIM.

WELL WHAT TO  
KNOW WHEN SOMEONE  
SHOT HIS FUEL WELL  
HARD TO KNOW IF THE  
FIRST MAN HERE...



THAT IS THE  
PERPETRATOR

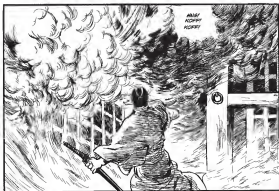
AND AS  
FOR WHO HE  
WILL BE...



WELL  
THERE'S A  
FIRE IN THE  
CELLS!



















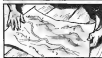


the eleventh



# The Coming of the Cold









BRINGING YOUR  
CLUTCH WITH BLOOD.  
WHY DO YOU  
CLUTCH SO HARD,  
AND HAVE CARED?

A FITTING PARTING GIFT  
TO TAKE WITH ME TO  
JINRO, THE LAND  
OF DEATH.



I AM OSAKI ITTO,  
FORMER JINRYU  
KONNINGSMAAN,  
EXECUTIONER OF  
THE SHOGUNATE THAT  
IS MY ONLY CHILD,  
OSAKORO.



YOU JINRYU  
KONNINGSMAAN  
NOW I TELL  
YOU SOMETHING  
BY SHARING  
YOUR NAME  
AND NOW...

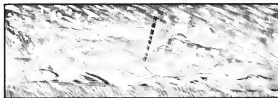


OSAKI

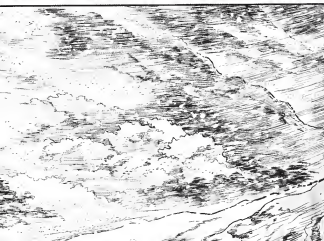


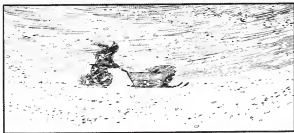
OSAKI





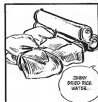
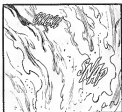












JERRY  
DRINK RICE  
WATER.



A HANGOVER  
CLOCK (AD  
TOMMY  
SLANT  
ONE DRINK  
COMPLETE









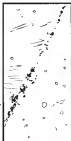
















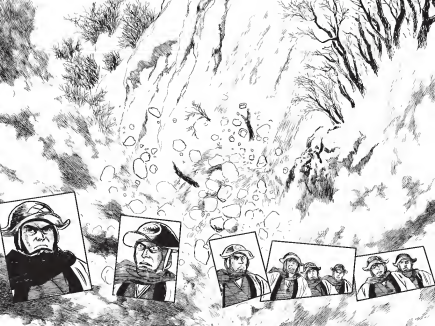














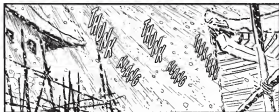
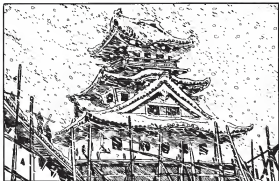








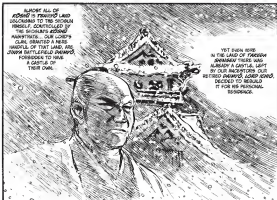






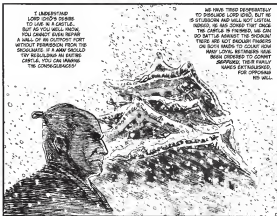
ALMOST ALL OF  
JAPAN IS REMAINING LAND  
BELONGING TO THE SHOGUN  
HIMSELF. CONTROLLED BY  
THE SHOGUN'S ~~MINISTERS~~  
MINISTERS. OUR LORDS  
ONLY GRANTED A FEW  
HANDFULS OF THAT LAND ARE  
JAPANESE BATTLEFIELD ~~OWNERS~~  
OWNERS TO HAVE  
A CASTLE OF  
THEIR OWN.

YET EVEN HERE  
IN THE LAND OF FAREWELL  
SHIMAZU THERE WAS  
ALREADY A CASTLE, LEFT  
BY OUR ANCESTORS. OUR  
RETIRED ~~OWNERS~~ LORD ~~OWNERS~~  
DECIDED TO REBUILD  
IT FOR HIS PERSONAL  
RESIDENCE.



I UNDERSTAND  
LORD ~~OWNERS~~ DESIRES  
TO LIVE IN A CASTLE.  
BUT AS YOU WILL KNOW  
YOU CANNOT EVEN REPAIR  
A WALL OF AN OUTPOST FORT  
WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE  
SHOGUN. IF A MAN SHOULD  
TRY REBUILDING AN ENTIRE  
CASTLE, YOU CAN IMAGINE  
THE CONSEQUENCES!

WE HAVE TRIED DESPERATELY  
TO PERSUADE LORD ~~OWNERS~~, BUT HE  
IS STUBBORN AND WILL NOT LISTEN.  
INSTEAD, HE HAS DECIDED THAT ONCE  
THE CASTLE IS FINISHED, WE CAN  
DO BATTLE AGAINST THE SHOGUN!  
THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH FIGHTERS  
ON BOTH SIDES TO COUNT HOW  
MANY LOYAL RETAINERS HAVE  
BEEN ORDERED TO COMMIT  
SEPPUKU. THEIR FAMILY  
NAMES EXTINGUISHED,  
FOR OFFENSE  
HE WILL



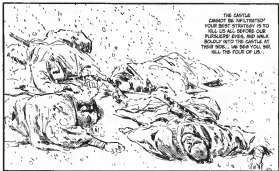
THE AMM ASSETS DROVE  
AWAY LIKE WATER FLOWING  
FROM A SPRING. WE WERE  
POOR TO BEARS WITH NOW  
WE TALKED ON THE BRINK  
OF DISASTER. OUR CHANCE  
IS A PRIME YOUNG PAIR  
WHO CANNOT BEAR  
HIMSELF TO DISPOSE  
OF RETIRE



NOW THE ~~AMM-CHIEF~~ ~~PERSONAL~~ ~~SAME~~  
EXPLOITS THE SITUATION TO USE HIS  
OWN POCKETS. HE'S EXPECTED OF  
DISMISSING A PORTLAND FROM THE AMM.  
THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THE CLUE AND THE  
AMM IS TO TAKE LORD IDON'S LIFE.  
I AND FOUR COMRADES IN THE AMM  
WERE REMOVED TO SOME UNUSUAL  
POSSIBLE AS DIS/VALE. TESTIMONY,  
AFTER ALL, WE SEEM TO KILL THE  
FORGOTTEN FATHER OF OUR OWN  
LORD. I SHALL COME BACK  
IN PERSON. I SEE YOU  
AND LORD IDON'S LIFE...



THE CASTLE  
CANNOT BE INFILTRATED  
YOUR BEST STRATEGY IS TO  
KILL US ALL BEFORE OUR  
PURSUERS' EYES, AND WALK  
BOULDER INTO THE CASTLE AT  
THEIR SIDE... WE SEE YOU SEE  
ALL THE FOLK OF US...







I'VE FORGOTTEN YOU  
SAID YOU'RE A MILITARY  
COMMANDER MEANT BY  
OUR LORD IN EDO?  
NEVER SEEN YOU  
IN MY LIFE.



LORD ISDO  
WILL KNOW  
ME...

WHAT?



WHEN OUR LORDSHIP  
TRAVELLED TO THE CAPITAL THE  
YEAR BEFORE LAST, HE WAS  
IMRESSED BY MY SKILL-CHANGING,  
AND MADE ME A NEW RETAINER.  
IF YOU TELL LORD ISDO I  
AM THE SAMURAI HE  
SELECTED IN EDO, HE WILL  
SOLICE FOR ME.

HAH...

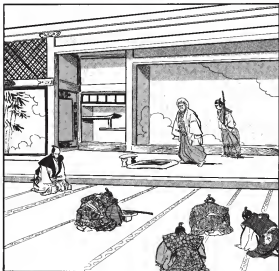
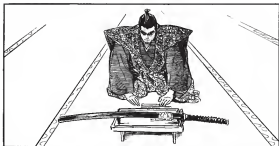


I AM HERE ON  
ORDERS FROM OUR  
LORD IN EDO. HE TOLD  
ME THERE ARE  
TREASURES IN THE HALL  
AND COMMANDED  
ME TO PROTECT  
THE PATRIE.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT  
YOUR PROGRESS FROM  
ISSHIN OYOSU. IT'S A  
COMFORT TO HAVE  
YOU HERE. I'LL GRANT  
YOU AN AUDIENCE WITH  
LORD ISDO. GET OUT  
OF THOSE CLOTHES,  
AND COME TO THE  
GREAT HALL...



SEE...



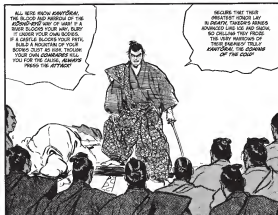








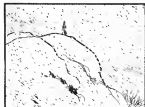
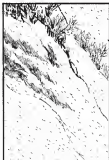
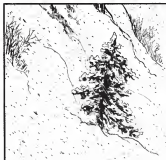
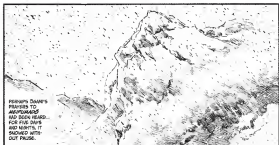


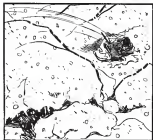
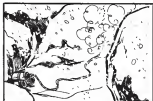
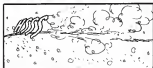


















*the twelfth*

# Tragic O- Sue





















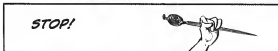




















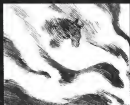






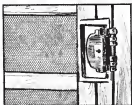
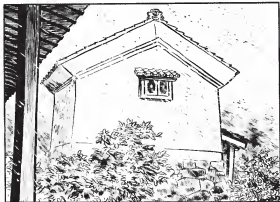
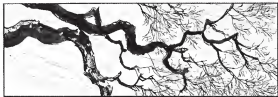


HAH  
HAH  
HAH...



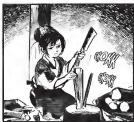




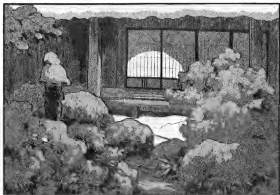




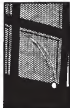


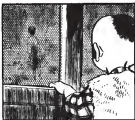












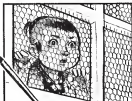






BUT HOW  
WITHOUT FOOD  
OR DRINK...  
WOLF...









THE ASSASSIN  
LONG WOLF AND  
GUP IS READY TO  
USE SCARABEES  
SCREENS TO  
APPROACH HIS  
TARGET



HE HAD HIS BOY WEAR  
SWAMPWEAR, AND THEN  
LET US CAPTURE HIM. THEN  
HE INFILTRATED THAT GIRL  
INTO OUR HOUSEHOLD AS  
AN O-RON TO MAINTAIN  
CONTACT WITH  
THE BOY?

IT IS OBVIOUS  
THAT THE LIE.  
HE IS AFTER IS  
ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR  
INSPECTOR OF  
KORONAA AMAT



GIRL... WHAT,  
WHAT SHOULD  
WE DO?

THERE ISN'T A  
MINUTE TO LOSE IF WE  
WAIT FOR THE ASSASSIN  
TO SHOW, IT WILL BE  
TOO LATE!

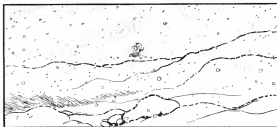
WE MUST  
FOLLOW HIM  
OUT! HE HAS  
TO BE KILLED  
NOW!

AND THEN WE'LL  
FIND OUT JUST  
WHO KILLED THIS  
LONG WOLF AND  
GUP...











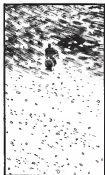
















WHO WOULD YOU?  
AND WHO HAVE  
YOU COME HERE  
TO KILL?

STRAH!



IF YOU  
DON'T, THE  
SWORD DIES!

AHH..J



SHU!



IF YOU CARE  
ABOUT YOUR  
DAUGHTER,  
THROW DOWN  
THAT SWORD!



WHY DOES  
THE SWORD  
FALL...?

PEOPLE KNOW  
GOLD WITHOUT  
AN ANSWER.

BUT DOES  
THE SWORD KNOW  
IT KILLS THE  
HEARTS OF MEN?



I  
HAVE NO  
CHOICE.

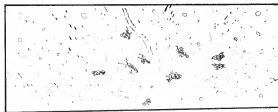


YES,  
NOW HEAL  
HE SAVED  
HIS OWN.









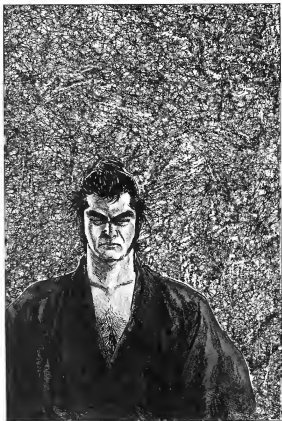
*the thirteenth*

# The Gateless Barrier



ON THE GREAT WAY  
THERE IS NO GATE  
BUT A THOUSAND PATHS  
TO CHOOSE FROM.  
FIND THE GATE  
AND YOU MAY WALK ALONE  
BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH















IS IT POSSIBLE TO  
FORGET THE BELLA, UNTIL  
THE SUBJECTS ARE AS  
ONE, AND THE BELLA IS BUT  
THE SCEPTER OF ADOP  
CAN I SACRIFICE BUT A  
FACET OF AMORPH PAVLO  
OF THE ALL?



CAN I RETURN ALL I HAVE  
ACQUIRED SINCE BIRTH, ALL SKILL,  
ALL KNOWLEDGE, ALL EXPERIENCE,  
TO EMPTINESS? MEET THE BLOOD,  
ALL THE BLOOD, MEET YOUR  
FATHERS, KILL YOUR FATHERS  
MEET YOUR ANCESTORS, KILL  
YOUR ANCESTORS. CAN I REACH  
THAT PLACE WITH NO WORDS,  
FREE OF ALL SATION,  
FREE OF ALL SELF?































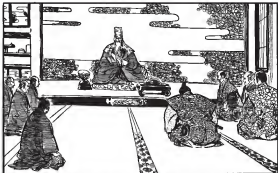




MAY I ASK YOU TO  
KILL A LIVING BEING?...?  
A DIFFICULT FEAT, SOMETHING  
FEW IF ANY COULD ACCOMPLISH.  
YET PERHAPS YOU, GOOD SIR,  
PERHAPS YOU...

I ASK YOU.  
MAY, I IMPLORE  
YOU TO HELP...





NO MATTER HOW OFTEN YOU ASK, WAKO-SAMA, WE CANNOT LOWER THIS YEAR'S TAX. YET WE ARE PREPARED TO ELIMINATE VARIOUS MISCELLANEOUS LEVIES, FROM TIRE TO TIRE, FOR THE SPACE OF THREE YEARS. PLEASE, PARDON THE PEASANTRY...



CATTLE WARDEN! YOU NEVER LEARN! THE PEASANTS ARE TORTURED BY Famine, SO DESPERATE THEY SELL THEIR OWN DAUGHTERS AND KILL THEIR NEIGHBORS TO SURVIVE!



THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY REMAINER MEAN THAT WITHOUT THE PEASANT, THERE IS NO SHALAN!

BUT, BUT WAKO-SAMA! OUR LAND IS INFAMOUS FOR ITS POVERTY! WE ARE ALREADY DUE THE BIG MERCHANTS OUR NEXT TWO YEARS' WORTH OF TAX REVENUES! WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN, EVEN CULTIVATING THE SALT FLATS, TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THESE DESPERATE STRAITS. PLEASE, COMRAGE THEM ONE MORE TIME...



THE PEASANTS WILL UNDERSTAND YOUR EFFORTS! THAT IS WHY THERE HAVE BEEN NO REVOLTS IN THIS LAND AS THERE HAVE BEEN IN OTHERS, EVEN IN THE MOUTH OF THE GREAT Famine. YET NO MAN CAN SIMPLY WAIT PASSIVELY FOR DEATH! YOUR MOST URGENT PRIORITY IS TO REDRESS THIS YEAR'S TAXES, AND TO SAVE THE PEOPLE OF YOUR LAND!







THESE ARE ONLY TWO THINGS  
OUT OF BALANCE IN NANGAKI HALL.  
ONE IS POVERTY. THE OTHER IS  
THE SAN FERRIS JACK, HEIR OF  
NANGAKI FORTUNE TELLER, A GURU  
SEATED ABOVE THE JARDIN.



JERRY MACKO IS A MAN  
OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.  
HE IS A MAN OF THE HIGHEST  
ORDER. HE IS A MAN OF THE  
HIGHEST ORDER. HE IS A  
MAN OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.  
HE IS A MAN OF THE HIGHEST  
ORDER. HE IS A MAN OF THE  
HIGHEST ORDER. HE IS A  
MAN OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.



IT IS ONLY BECAUSE  
OF THE HISTORY OF  
JERRY MACKO THAT THE  
DISORDERED MAN HAS NOT  
BEEN DEFEATED BY  
THEIR HISTORY.  
AND THE HISTORY THAT  
BETTER HISTORY OF  
THE CASTLE.



JOHN GO  
SPEAKING OF  
THE TEA

JOHN  
NEARLY ABOUT  
IT.

JOHN  
SPEAKING THE  
DISORDERED  
TO THE  
HIGHEST  
ORDER.



JOHN GO  
SPEAKING OF  
THE TEA  
AND THE  
HISTORY OF  
THE CASTLE.

IT IS ONLY  
BECAUSE  
THE HISTORY OF  
THE CASTLE  
HAS NOT  
BEEN  
DEFEATED  
BY  
THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
THE  
CASTLE.



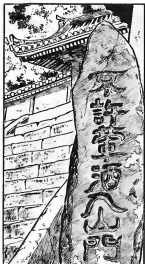
JOHN GO  
SPEAKING OF  
THE TEA  
AND THE  
HISTORY OF  
THE CASTLE.

JOHN GO  
SPEAKING OF  
THE TEA  
AND THE  
HISTORY OF  
THE CASTLE.



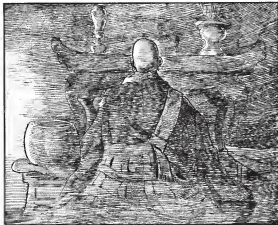














YOU CANNOT  
KILL THAT WHICH  
DOES NOT  
EXIST...

YOU CANNOT KILL  
ONE THAT HAS FORGOTTEN  
HIMSELF AND REIGNED WITH  
THE SUFFERINGS OF ALL ONE  
FOR WHOM THE SUBJECTIVE  
AND THE OBJECTIVE ARE  
AS ONE, AND IS BUT A  
FRAGMENT OF THE TOTALITY  
OF ANAND BODHI...







INDEED IS IT NOT  
SAID THAT ON THE GREAT  
WAY THERE IS NO GATE,  
BUT A THOUSAND PATHS  
TO CHOOSE. PROPER FIND  
THE GATE, AND YOU MAY  
WALK ALONE BETWEEN  
HEAVEN AND EARTH.

....



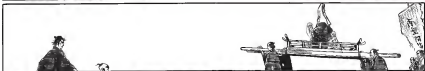
IF YOU CAN KILL  
ME, THEN TRULY YOU  
WILL HAVE BECOME A  
GATELESS GARDEN. THE  
ASSASSIN'S ROAD IS IT  
NOT SAID THAT IF YOU  
KILL THE BLOODY,  
KILL THE BLOODY?

REST YOUR  
FRIENDS, KILL  
YOUR ENEMIES? YES  
ALL IS EASY. BUT  
BUTTERFLY, THE IS  
IS NOTHING BUT  
THE ASSASSIN'S  
ROAD.

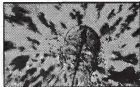


THE  
GATELESS  
GARDEN OF THE  
ASSASSIN'S  
ROAD...





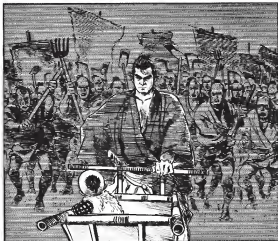










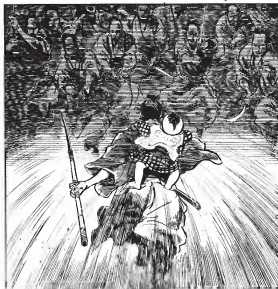


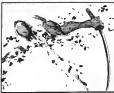


















*the fourteenth*



# Winter Flower



















THINK HER  
OWN LEAD SO SHE  
WOULDN'T WRITE AND  
RICK WOULD SHE WED?  
THAT'S SOMETHING A  
BARBARE WOMAN  
WOULD DO

GRESH  
I DUNNO WHEN  
SOME WEDDING  
HAD FREE

SURE  
WEDD WOULD  
A PROSTITUTE  
HAVE A JOBBING  
DARRENT



SO,  
TELL ME THIS  
WOMAN'S NAME  
NAME, YOU HAVE  
HER WORK  
AGREEMENT,  
DON'T YOU?

ACTUALLY  
THERE  
DRAFT ONE,  
OFFICE

MY NOTEP  
ONE WHO  
OBVIOUSLY  
STILL UNDER  
CONTRACT...



IS NO,  
OFFICE  
ONE DIDN'T WANT  
A CONTRACT  
FROM THE VERY  
BEGINNING

WHAT??



A  
PROSTITUTE  
WITHOUT A  
WORK  
AGREEMENT?

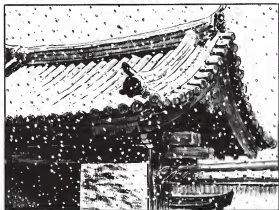
Y-YES, SHE  
THAT'S RIGHT. WE  
NEVER SAID FOR AN  
ADVANCE TO WORK FOR  
US, AND WE DIDN'T BUY  
HER FROM A PROCUER,  
EITHER, SHE

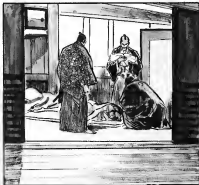
SHE JUST  
WALKED RIGHT IN,  
AS BOLD AS BRASS,  
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO  
BE A PROSTITUTE,  
THAT SHE DID.













THE KILLER GOT IN THROUGH THE EAVES, CRASHED ALONG THE ROOF BEAMS UNTIL HE WAS DIRECTLY OVERHEAD. THEN HE LUNGED THE MOMENT HE REACHED ABOVE THE CEILING PANEL.



THEY DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE NOT WHILE THEY WERE RATHER LOSE.

ENOUGH WOULD'NT SURVIVE NOTED? RAL, MUCH LESS DEFLECTED THE BLOW.



INSPECTOR, THIS WASN'T A DEEP WOUND... YET THE SPLATTER PATTERN SEEMS ODD FOR A SWORD STROKE.

AND TWO SLASHES CUT WOULD BE THE TIP OF A CURVED BLADE.

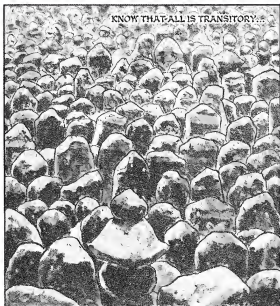


IF THE PERPETRATOR PULSED IT FROM ABOVE WITH ENOUGH POWER TO KILL THEN BOTH, YOU'D EXPECT THE BLADE TO GO OFF AT AN ANGLE... ONLY A MASTER COULD HAVE DONE THIS...



UNKNOWN TECHNIQUE. THERE'S NO ONE IN OUR LORD'S SERVICE WHO CAN HANDLE A CURVED BLADE THIS WELL.







WHAT AWAITS US,  
WHAT AWAITS ALL MEN...  
NOT KNOWING OUR TOMORROW  
NOT KNOWING OUR TOMORROW'S  
TROOP WE WALK ON BEFORE



AN  
EYES-OPEN  
AS THE DOG

BORN RED-  
FACED BARRON  
IN THE MORNING



BLEACHED-WHITE  
BONES IN THE EVENING  
THAT IS MAN



BLOWN  
AWAY LIKE  
FLOWER PETALS  
ON THE HEAVY-  
LESS WIND





OUR TWO EYES CLOSE  
IN AN INSTANT

IF A SINGLE BREATH  
DROPS TOO LONG



EVEN THE  
HARBORON GARD  
WAS RUINED,  
UNFILLED...



A WOMAN  
THAT ANYONE  
COULD SEE WAS  
A SAMURAI'S  
DAUGHTER

DELIBERATELY SUBSTRATING  
HERSELF TO A LIFE OF MISERY.  
LATELY, FINALLY SHE KILLS  
HERSELF AND IS BURIED AT A  
FATHER'S TEMPLE... I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT KAMIA BROUGHT  
HER HERE, BUT I CAN'T LET  
HER STORY END LIKE THIS...



IT WAS MY KAMIA  
THAT BROUGHT ME  
TO YOU IN DEATH.  
I'LL FIND YOUR  
FORTUNE FOR YOU,  
SO AT LEAST YOU  
CAN REST IN PEACE

BECAUSE I  
KNOW IT WAS  
THIS FINAL SORROW  
THAT MADE YOU  
TAKE YOUR LIFE...  
AH...!



BOOM!  
BOOM!



BOOM!  
BOOM!

?





AND WHY  
DID YOU GET  
ANYTHING  
ON THE  
PROSTITUTE?

NOTHING, SHE' I JOLLED  
EVERYONE FROM THE GIRLS  
AT THE BROTHEL TO THE PLACES  
SHE LIKED TO SHOP, AND FOR  
MOST RECENT CLIENTS, TOO  
BUT NOTHING TOTAL BLAME.

I DID  
NEARLY CAN  
USED THING  
THINGS.

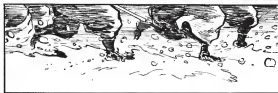


WHAT IS IT?  
TWO WORD  
THINK OF  
YOUR...

WELL, SOME IT'S  
CRAP, BUT... ONE  
OF THE PROSTITUTE'S  
CLIENTS TWO DAYS  
BACK WAS A WOMAN  
A WOMAN WITH  
A KID!







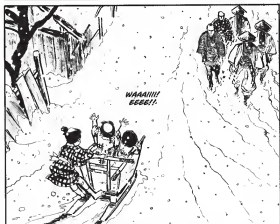
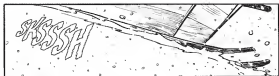


















C- CALL THE  
"RECTOR'S"  
EIGHT AGAIN!





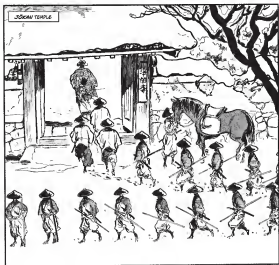














SPEAK, PRESTO! WHAT  
NUMBER OF MAN IS HE?

HE'S A MONK  
AFFLICTED WITH THE  
ROE. HE WON'T LONG  
TO LIVE... HE COLLAPSED  
IN FRONT OF THE TEMPLE.  
SO I LET HIM USE THE  
HUT UNTIL HE DIED...



HE'D NOT  
TAKEN HIS  
SYMPTOMS?

I HAVE  
SOME TRAINING  
IN THE MEDICAL  
ARTS...



I SEE...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MONK  
MAY HAVE DONE, BUT WHEN A MAN  
DOESN'T KNOW IF HE'LL LIVE OUT THE  
DAILY, THE COMPASSIONATE THING TO  
DO IS LET HIM GO. THAT'S SOMETHING  
THE WAY OF BUDDHA AND THE WAY OF  
THE WARRIOR SHOULD UNDERSTAND

....











THE NEAREST  
APPROXIMATE TO  
WORK AS A SECRETARY  
UNDER YAMATO WAS  
HATAKE FOSHIRO.  
HE BORROWED MONEY  
FROM YAMATO.

HATAKE WAS  
DISGRACED. HE  
WAS NEARLY WED,  
AND HIS MOTHER  
DEATHLY ILL.



HATAKE...??

THE SAME HATAKE  
WHO WENT AWAY THREE  
YEARS AGO AND KILLED HIS  
DICK MOTHER BEFORE  
COMMITTING SUICIDE...? F  
FANT HATAKE?

HIS FAMILY  
WAS DISGRACED.  
AND HIS WIFE'S  
STILL MISSING...

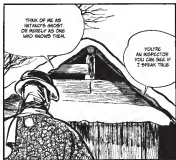


YAMATO'S WIFE DEMANDED HATAKE  
PAY A FORTUNE IN INTEREST!  
AND WHEN SHE SAW HE COULDN'T PAY,  
SHE RAPE HATAKE'S WIFE GAVE BACK THE MONEY BY  
SELLING HER BODY. ALL IN SECRET TO HER HUSBAND.  
IT WAS THE FOUR PASSENGER OF THAT GOLD-DRAGON  
WIFE THAT SHE CHOSE YAMATO SPECIALLY AS THE BEST'S  
FIRST CLIENT. SHE INVITED HATAKE'S WIFE TO THEIR ESTATE.  
AND THEY HELD HER BY FORCE AND RAPE HER!  
THAT I HAVE HEARD.



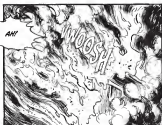
THE ABOVE HATAKE  
EXPERIENCED WHEN  
HE HEARD OF THE DEAD...  
THE MURDERER OF  
A MAN OWING CROUCHING  
DEBT...

PUT THAT  
TOGETHER...  
AND YOU KNOW  
THE REASON!





ANY



GOOD  
BUT  
YOU-!

WILL YOU  
RELEASE  
THE WORDS OF  
A DYING MAN? I  
FORGIVE ME!

















HE SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN ABLE TO SHOULDER  
AWAY FROM THE  
PLACES WITH THE  
GRAVESTONES.  
I KNEW IN THERE.



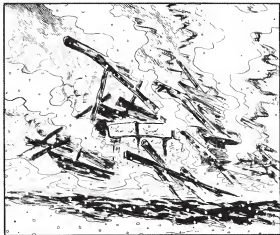
THAT'S WHY  
HE TORCHED IT.  
I SUPPOSE. BUT...  
MAYBE HE REALLY  
DID DIE IN THE FIRE.



BUT THEY DIDN'T  
FIND ANYTHING  
LIKE A BODY  
IN THERE.

WELL,  
LET'S HAVE A  
LOOK.









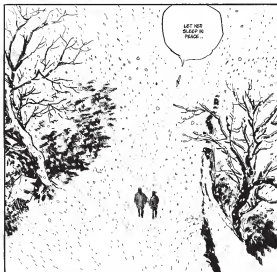












LONG WOLF AND CUB BOOK TWO: THE END  
TO BE CONTINUED

# GLOSSARY

**cho**

Old unit of measurement. Approximately 109 meters (119 yards).

**daimyo**

A feudal lord.

**dono**

A term of respect for a higher-ranking official or aristocrat. A more common term of respect among civilians is *san*, indicating more respect than the most common *san*.

**Edo**

The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shogunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo.

**“Gate gate  
paragate parasamgate”**

The closing mantra of Prajnaparamita Hridaya, *The Heart of Perfect Wisdom Sutra*, one of the central texts of Zen Buddhism. The sutra is in Sanskrit, and is chanted today in Zen temples around the world.

**gomen**

“Forgive me.”

**go-yo**

Literally, “official business.” Police and *posse*s carried “go-yo” lanterns when searching for criminals, identifying themselves as law enforcers. A shouted “Go-yo!” could be the Edo equivalent of “Halt! Police!” for a *senjaku*, or “Make way!” for an official procession.

**han**

A feudal domain.

**hanshi**

Samurai in the service of a *han*.

**kaiken**

A dagger kept inside the *kimono* for self-defense. Common among the wives and daughters of samurai.

**kaishaku**

A second. In the rite of *seppuku*, a samurai was allowed death with honor by cutting his own abdomen. After the incision was complete, the second would perform *kaishaku*, severing the samurai’s head for a quick death. The second was known as a *kaishakunin*.

**karo**

Elders, usually the senior advisor to a *daimyo*, the lord of a *han*. Since the *daimyo* was required to alternate each year between life in his castle in the *han* and his residence in Edo, the capital and seat of the Tokugawa shogunate, there was usually an *Edo-karo* (Edo elder) and a *han-karo* (*han* elder), who would administer affairs in Edo or in the *han* when their lord was away.

**ken**

Old unit of measure. Approximately five feet.

**kimetban**

Roads on which prison rules were written.

**kogi kaishakunin**

The Shogun’s official executioner and *kaishakunin* (see *kaishaku*).

**koku**

A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *han*’s wealth, a measure of its agricultural land and productivity.

**makura-sagashi**

Literally, a pillow searcher. A wandering thief who preyed on other travelers, stealing their valuables from under their pillows while they slept.

**meido**

The afterlife. The land after death. Believed to be a place of darkness. Only a few Buddhist sects described a division between heaven and hell.

**meifumado**

The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

**metsuke**

Inspector. A post combining the functions of chief of police and chief intelligence officer.

**monme**

Unit of currency. Worth 1/60th of a ryo gold piece.

**mu**

Nothingness. A crucial concept in Zen Buddhism, and a goal of all the martial arts. Clearing the mind of all extraneous thoughts and connections, to exist wholly in the moment, freed of all attachment to life and the world around you.

**naginata**

A two-handed weapon taller than a man, with a long, curved blade. The less-common *ryemachi* was similar, with a shorter shaft and longer blade.

**namu**

From the Sanskrit "namah"; "take refuge in the Buddha." A common prayer for the dead.

**o-bangashira**

The supreme commander of a *han*'s standing guard (or *ban*) of samurai, charged to protect the lord and castle.

**Ogami Mountain**

Mountain of the great gods. The Chinese characters are different from those used in Ito Ogami's own name, "to pray to perceive, to see," but have a similar pronunciation. It is also a play on "takeori," or "well."

**ri**

Old unit of measurement. Approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).

**ronin**

A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of *han*, expulsion for misbehavior or other reasons. Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa shogunate, many impoverished ronin became "hired guns" for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words.

**ryo**

A gold piece.

**seppuku**

The right to kill oneself with honor to atone for failure, or to follow one's master into death. Only the samurai class was allowed this glorious but excruciating death. The abdomen was cut horizontally followed by an upward cut to spill out the intestines. When possible, a *kashikawa* performed a beheading after the cut was made to shorten the agony.

**Takeda shido**

Bushido, the way of the warrior. Takeda Shingen was one of the most feared warlords of the Sengoku period of warring states that ended with the ascendancy of the Tokugawa. If he had not been felled by illness, Takeda, not the Tokugawa, might have unified Japan.

**Wajo**

A term of respect for a high priest or the head of a temple.

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